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Message Text

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SUBJECT:US STATEMENT ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION

1. OUR DISCUSSION AGAIN THIS YEAR COMES TO FOCUS ON ONE ASPECT OF AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH IS--ESPECIALLY IN HUMAN TERMS--MOST SENSITIVE AND DEMANDING.

2. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES REMAINS DETERMINED TO EXERT ITS FULLEST EFFORTS TOWARD A PEACEFUL ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS SETTLEMENT, JUSTLY AND DURABLY DEALING WITH ALL ISSUES COMPRISING THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE. LET ME QUOTE WHAT SECRETARY KISSINGER TOLD THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON SEPTEMBER 27: "I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE UNITED STATES DID NOT HELP NEGOTIATE THIS AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO PUT
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AN END TO THE PROCESS OF PEACE BUT TO GIVE IT NEW

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IMPETUS. PRESIDENT FORD HAS STATED THAT WE WILL NOT ACCEPT STALEMAIE AND STAGNATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THAT WAS TRUE BEFORE THE SINAI AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED AND IT REMAINS TRUE TODAY. THE OBJECTIVE OF OUR POLICY IS NOT MERELY TO CREATE ANOTHER TEMPORARY TRUCE BUT TO SUSTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF NEGOTIATIONS. THE UNITED STATES IS DETERMINED TO TAKE EVERY FEASIBLE

STEP TO HELP PROMOTE FURTHER PRACTICAL PROGRESS TOWARD FINAL PEACE."

3. WE RECOGNIZE, IN PARTICULAR, THAT AN EQUITABLE NEGOTIATED SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, THE ISSUE BEFORE US TODAY IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MUST BE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT. AS SECRETARY KISSINGER SAID EARLIER THIS MONTH, THERE WILL BE NO PERMANENT PEACE UNLESS IT INCLUDES ARRANGEMENTS THAT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. NO ONE CAN DISREGARD THE PALESTINIANS AS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EASTERN EQUATION, OR DENIGRATE THEIR LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS.

4. THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION HAS ALWAYS BEEN BROADER AND MORE COMPLEX THAN THE ISSUES OF HUMANITARIAN RELIEF TO REFUGEES-CRUCIAL AS THAT MAY BE AT THIS MOMENT- AND ITS ASPECTS AND RAMIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN MULTIPLIED IN RECENT YEARS. NO ONE CAN IGNORE THIS REALITY IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR CURRENT AND FUTURE PEACE EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE SHALL NOT DO SO.

5. PEACE-MAKING EFFORTS ARE CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK ESTABLISHED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. THIS FRAMEWORK HAS BEEN AGREED TO BY THE PARTIES TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, HAS FACILITATED THE NOTABLE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, AND PROVIDES FOR THE FURTHER PROGRESS FOR WHICH WE ARE PRESENTLY STRIVING. WHILE WE COMMEND THE EFFORT TO PURSUE PALESTINIAN INTERESTS BY MEANS OUTLINED IN THE CHARTER, IT IS BECAUSE OF OUR SUPPORT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

FOR THIS FRAMEWORK THAT WE HAVE TO TAKE ISSUE WITH ONE OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS BEFORE US FOR OUR CONSIDERATION.

6. LAST YEAR, AS YOU ARE ALL AWARE, THE US VOTED AGAINST RESOLUTION 3236. BESIDES GENERAL RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE EFFICACY OF MEETING THE INTERESTS AND CONCERNS OF THE PALESTINIANS THROUGH RESOLUTIONS OF

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RATHER THAN THROUGH THE GIVE-AND-TAKE OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE EXHORTATION TO EXERCISE ANY PALESTINIAN RIGHTS IN PALESTINE CREATES A SERIOUS POLITICAL AND LEGAL PROBLEM. THE GEOGRAPHIC ENTITY KNOWN AS PALESTINE NOW CONSTITUTES THE TERRITORY OF A MEMBER STATE OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THUS A CLAIM TO EXERCISE RIGHTS IN PALESTINE APPEARS AS A CLAIM WHICH, AT LEAST IN PART, INVOLVES INTERNAL JURISDICTION OF A MEMBER STATE.

7. REGARDING THE PROPOSAL TO INVITE THE PLO TO GENEVA, WE NOTE THAT THERE ARE VARIOUS VIEWS AMONG THE PRESENT PARTIES TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE CRUX OF THE PROBLEM, AND OUR POLICY IS THAT ANY NEW PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA CAN ONLY BE THE RESULT OF CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, NEGOTIATION, AND AGREEMENT AMONG THE PARTIES. WE ARE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN SUCT NEGOTIATIONS. OUR OWN VIEWS ON THE OBSTACLES TO RECOGNITION OF OR NEGOTIATION WITH THE PLO ARE A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD.

8. PRESIDENT FORD HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL ASSIST THE PARTIES IN ANY WAY IT CAN, AS THE PARTIES DESIRE, TO ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK ESTABLISHED BY SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. WE ARE READY TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL. WE ARE READY TO DISCUSS AND CONSULT WITH ALL THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED ABOUT THE SUBSTANCE AND FORM OF A RECONVENED GENEVA CONFERENCE. WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS HOW BEST TO ASSURE THAT LEGITIMATE PAL TINIAN INTERESTS ARE BROUGHT INTO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. WE ARE READY TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES ON ONE OR SEVERAL
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TRACKS. WE ARE DETERMINED TO PERSEVERE.

9. BUT WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN OR SUPPORT CHANGES BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THE PAINS TAKINGLY NEGOTIATED FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND ACCEPTED BY THE PARTIES. NOR ARE WE PREPARED TO SUPPORT RIGHTS FOR ONE GROUP AT THE EXPENSE OF RIGHTS OF OTHERS. WE ARE PREPARED, HOWEVER, TO ENCOURAGE NEGOTIATION AND THE PURSUIT BY PEACEFUL MEANS OF THE SETTLEMENT WE ALL DESIRE.

10.IT IS IN THIS MANNER THAT THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIANS CAN BE MET, AND THEY MUST BE MET FOR PEACE TO PREVAIL. THE UNITED STATES STANDS READY IN

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THAT SPIRIT TO ASSIST AS BEST IT CAN, AND PROMOTE AS
IT MUST, TRUE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. KISSINGER

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